

Application No.: 10/790898

Case No.: 56523US009

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 11 and 13 through 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 anticipated by United States patent 5,486,540 ("Lu"). The Examiner has further rejected 12 and 23 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious in view of the Lu patent. The applicants respectfully disagree that the present claims are properly rejectable.

The Examiner has asserted, without providing any basis, that the Lu patent teaches an article having "large scale, predictable dimensional stability." The Examiner has not provided any explanation of how the materials taught by the Lu patent meet this limitation in any sense and certainly not as defined in the specification of the present application.

In response to the previous rejection the applicants argued that the present application defines "large scale, predictable dimensional stability" to mean that the article will maintain its predicted dimensions when heated to 150°C for sixty minutes and then returned to ambient temperature. Since the PVC taught by the Lu patent has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of about 78°C it certainly does not meet this definition. In response the Examiner argued that this limitation does not appear in the claim and cannot be read from the specification into the claim. The applicants respectfully disagree that this limitation does not appear in the claim.

Certainly the phrase "long term, predictable dimensional stability" has to have some meaning and the Examiner has not provided any alternative definition to the one provided in the specification. However, in any event, it is well established that the applicants are entitled to provide a definition of a term in the specification and use it to have that meaning in the claims. By using a defined term in the claims the applicants are not attempting read a limitation in the specification into the claims. They are expressly including that limitation in the claims. On this basis, the teaching of the Lu patent clearly neither anticipates nor renders obvious the present invention as defined by the claims.

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For the reasons described herein the present invention clearly is patentable over the cited reference. The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the final rejection and allow all claims currently pending

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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